



Mr. Kenneth C. Robbins
President
Illinois Hospital Association
1151 East Warrenville Road
P.O. Box 3015
Naperville, IL 60566

Dear Mr. Robbins:

I am writing to offer my support and commitment to the efforts outlined in the application to be submitted to the Federal Communications Commission to request funds from the Rural Health Care Pilot Program. The availability of the funds would enable Memorial Health System to commission a study, the findings of which would ultimately help us accomplish a strategic initiative to provide 99.9% availability for all critical clinical information systems used for patient care for the communities we serve. In order to accomplish this we feel the best approach is to have dedicated fibre connectivity between Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital in Lincoln, Illinois and the Memorial Health System datacenter in Springfield, Illinois. Study results would validate the best approach for us. The end result would allow us to provide not only business continuity but in case of a major catastrophe we would not be limited to connectivity that is provided by traditional facility providers (AT&T, Verizon, etc).

We are aware that many Illinois hospitals and health care providers have embraced telehealth and other health information technologies. However, there has not been a centrally coordinated effort to link the efforts of individual hospitals, medical and other health professional education institutions, and medical specialty consultants, as examples, to most effectively capitalize on the benefits of the technologies to enhance access to and improve outcomes of health care for Illinois' rural and underserved residents. The increasing national focus on electronic health information and its immediate and secure availability for patient care offers another level of technology that complements current telehealth applications, especially remote health care services and distance learning.

Memorial Health System is continually looking for ways to provide the very best outcomes for our patients and the communities we serve. Abraham Lincoln Memorial Hospital is currently in the planning stages of building a new hospital and the opportunity this grant would provide would be a great addition to the already strong commitment that Memorial Health System has in rural healthcare.

Sincerely,

Memorial Health System

Ken Moss
IT Manager of Technical Support